



Peter McWalters
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

To: All Superintendents

From: Peter McWalters 

Date: November 8, 2006

**Re: Rhode Island Department of Education
Oversight of School Health Programs Pursuant to Statute and Regulation**

In March I sent you an advisory initiating a review of specific school health programs under the Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs. (R16-21-SCHO) I asked each of you to submit information about your required HIV/AIDS Education Program at all grade levels as part of your overall school health program. I asked you to attach a copy of your HIV/AIDS Curriculum for all grade levels.

At that time I also reminded you that Rhode Island public schools are not authorized to include non approved health curricular materials in health classes in the public schools. I cautioned you that it had come to my attention that lesson plans presented by Heritage of Rhode Island that had been in use in some schools were not yet approved.

As a follow up to my March advisory, I would like to thank those of you who have submitted the requested curriculum to this Department and to notify you that transmitted with this memo is my recent approval of revised lesson plans developed by Heritage RI in response to input and guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Education Health Education Materials Review Committee.

Department staff will follow up with you in the coming months regarding our review of the health curriculum materials submitted by each district. If you have not already submitted the requested materials, please forward them to the attention of Annie Silvia, HIV/Sexuality Specialist, as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions about this follow-up on my March Advisory, please do not hesitate to contact my Chief Legal Counsel/Chief of Staff, Jennifer Wood (222-8486), or Annie Silva, HIV/Sexuality Specialist (222-8951).

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